

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 MCT-02 HA-05 ACDA-12
COME-00 USSS-00 SVC-00 /076 W
-----100355 242210Z /12

O 242157Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8588
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 06158

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, NU, PN
SUBJECT: AIRLIFT OF SANDINISTAS TO PANAMA

1. TWO AIRPLANES, REPORTEDLY A VENEZUELAN CRAFT AND A PANAMANIAN "COPA" AIRLINER, LANDED SAFELY AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 24. SOME OF THE EX-PRISONERS AND GUERRILLAS ON THE VENEZUELAN PLANE ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR FLIGHT TO CARACAS, AND MAY BY THIS TIME HAVE LEFT. THE REMAINING SANDINISTAS WERE GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY A BANNER-WAVING CROWD OF MAINLY YOUNG ONLOOKERS, BEFORE BEING WISKED AWAY IN GOP NATIONAL GUARD BUSES TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION.

2. COMMENT: SOMOZA IS NOT POPULAR IN OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE CIRCLES HERE, AND PANAMA HAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN SANCTUARY TO SANDINISTAS CAPTURED BY COSTA RICA, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SEEING THEM EXTRADITED TO NICARAGUA. SUCH REFUGEES HAVE GENERALLY BEEN BACK IN NICARAGUA WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND WE HAVE NO

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REASON TO BELIEVE THE CURRENT BATCH WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT. THE GOP HAS NOT YET RELEASED ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THEIR ROLE IN THIS DRAMA; WHEN THEY DO, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT HUMANITARIAN FACTORS WILL BE CITED, AS IN THE PAST. JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA06158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780347-0555
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780828/aaaaaxcn.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb08a45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1633585
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRLIFT OF SANDINISTAS TO PANAMA
TAGS: PINS, NU, PN, FSLN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb08a45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014